

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A keyboard for a data processing system comprising:
 - a plurality of keyboard sections;
 - 5 a plurality of keys attached to at least one of the keyboard sections;
 - wherein the keyboard is configured to assume a first position in which each of the keyboard sections are extended and to assume a second position in which each of the keyboard sections are collapsed; and
 - further wherein responsive to a change in its extension state, the keyboard is
 - 10 configured to transmit a state signal to the data processing system.
2. The keyboard of claim 1 further comprising:
 - at least one hinge for connecting adjacent keyboard sections.
- 15 3. The keyboard of claim 1 wherein the keys of at least one of the keyboard sections remain accessible after the keyboard assumes the second position.
4. The keyboard of claim 1 wherein one of the keyboard sections includes a palm rest.
- 20 5. The keyboard of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a keyboard housing connected to one of the keyboard sections and configured to receive at least one of the keyboard sections.
- 25 6. The keyboard of claim 5 wherein the keyboard housing includes:
 - a base plate; and
 - a slider configured to receive the keyboard section and operatively coupled to the base plate to permit the slider to move from a front edge of the base plate to a back edge of the base plate.
- 30 7. The keyboard of claim 6 wherein the state signal is transmitted to the data processing system upon movement of the slider.
8. The keyboard of claim 7 wherein responsive to the direction of movement of the slider, the state signal contains information for directing the data processing system to transition between a wake mode and a sleep mode.
- 35 9. The keyboard of claim 1 wherein responsive to the keyboard assuming the first position,

the state signal contains information for directing the data processing system to transition to a wake mode and further wherein responsive to the keyboard assuming the second position, the state signal contains information for directing the data processing system to transition to a sleep mode.

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10. The keyboard of claim 1 wherein the keyboard includes a switch for transmitting the state signal to the data processing system.

11. The keyboard of claim 1 further comprising at least one roller attached to the keyboard for facilitating movement of the keyboard between the first position and the second position.

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12. The keyboard of claim 1 wherein the keyboard includes a lock for selectively maintaining the keyboard sections in the first position and for selectively maintaining the keyboard sections in the second position.

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13. An input device for a data processing system comprising:

a keyboard having a plurality of keys;

at least one connector attached to the keyboard and configured for folding a first portion of the keyboard against a second portion of the keyboard; and

wherein the keyboard is configured to transmit a state signal to the data processing system upon movement of the hinge.

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14. The input device of claim 13 wherein the keys attached to the first portion of the keyboard remain accessible after the first portion of the keyboard is folded against the second portion of the keyboard.

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15. The input device of claim 13 wherein the plurality of keys are arranged in a plurality of parallel, horizontal rows along a face of the keyboard and further wherein the at least one connector is configured to cause the first portion of the keyboard to be folded against the second portion of the keyboard horizontally along a line between adjacent rows of the keys.

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16. The input device of claim 13 further comprising:

a palm rest attached to the keyboard.

17. The input device of claim 16 wherein the first portion of the keyboard includes the palm rest.

5 18. The input device of claim 17 wherein the at least one connector is configured to cause the first portion of the keyboard to be folded against the second portion of the keyboard horizontally along a line between the palm rest and a row of the keys adjacent to the palm rest.

10 19. The input device of claim 13 further comprising:
a keyboard housing attached to the keyboard.

20. The input device of claim 19 wherein the second portion of the keyboard includes the keyboard housing.

15 21. The input device of claim 20 wherein the at least one connector is configured to cause the first portion of the keyboard to be folded against the second portion of the keyboard horizontally along a line between the keyboard housing and a row of the keys adjacent to the keyboard housing.

22. The input device of claim 13 wherein the keyboard housing includes:

a base plate; and

a slider configured to receive the at least one connector and operatively coupled to the base plate to permit the slider to move from a front edge of the base plate to a back edge of the base plate.

23. The input device of claim 22 wherein the state signal is transmitted to the data processing system upon movement of the slider.

24. The keyboard of claim 23 wherein responsive to the direction of movement of the slider, the state signal contains information for directing the data processing system to transition between a wake mode and a sleep mode.

25. The keyboard of claim 13 wherein responsive to the direction of movement of the at least one connector, the state signal contains information for directing the data processing system to transition between a wake mode and a sleep mode.

26. The keyboard of claim 13 wherein the keyboard includes a switch for transmitting the state signal to the data processing system.

27. The keyboard of claim 13 further comprising at least one roller attached to the keyboard for facilitating movement of the keyboard during operation of the at least one connector.

28. The keyboard of claim 13 wherein the keyboard includes a lock for selectively permitting the at least one connector to function.

29. A data processing system having a processor, a memory unit, and a keyboard, the keyboard comprising:

a plurality of keyboard sections;

a plurality of keys attached to each of the keyboard sections;

5 wherein the keyboard is configured to assume a first position in which each of the keyboard sections are extended and to assume a second position in which each of the keyboard sections are collapsed;

and further wherein responsive to whether the keyboard has assumed the first position or the second position, the keyboard is configured to transmit a state signal
10 to the data processing system.

30. The keyboard of claim 29 further comprising:

at least one hinge for connecting adjacent keyboard sections.

15 31. The keyboard of claim 29 wherein the keys of at least one of the keyboard sections remain accessible after the keyboard assumes the second position.

32. The keyboard of claim 29 wherein one of the keyboard sections includes a palm rest.

20 33. The keyboard of claim 29 further comprising:

a keyboard housing connected to one of the keyboard sections and configured to receive at least one of the keyboard sections.

34. The keyboard of claim 33 wherein the keyboard housing includes:

25 a base plate; and

a slider configured to receive the keyboard section and operatively coupled to the base plate to permit the slider to move from a front edge of the base plate to a back edge of the base plate.

30 35. The keyboard of claim 34 wherein the state signal is transmitted to the data processing system upon movement of the slider.

36. The keyboard of claim 35 wherein responsive to the direction of movement of the slider, the state signal contains information for directing the data processing system to transition between a wake mode and a sleep mode.

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37. The keyboard of claim 29 wherein responsive to the keyboard assuming the first position, the state signal contains information for directing the data processing system to transition to a wake mode and further wherein responsive to the keyboard assuming the second position, the state signal contains information for directing the data processing system to transition to a sleep mode.

38. The keyboard of claim 29 wherein the keyboard includes a switch for transmitting the state signal to the data processing system.

39. The keyboard of claim 29 further comprising at least one roller attached to the keyboard for facilitating movement of the keyboard between the first position and the second position.

40. The keyboard of claim 29 wherein the keyboard includes a lock for selectively maintaining the keyboard sections in the first position and for selectively maintaining the keyboard sections in the second position.